

Press Advisory

No. 051-P
March 7, 1994

Updating the previous advisory on the Pentagon visit of Georgian Chairman and Acting Minister of Defense Eduard Shevardnadze: The full honor arrival ceremony, hosted by Secretary of Defense William J. Perry is still scheduled for 3:00 p.m. (EST), March 7, 1994, however, the signing of the *Joint Statement on Future U.S.-Georgian Defense and Military Relations* will now occur at the conclusion of talks between the two defense leaders. Although it is impossible to state a precise time, the meeting is expected to last approximately one hour, which would put the time of the signing at around 4:00 p.m.

Media interested in audiovisual coverage of this event may contact Helene Stikkel or Bob Ward at (703) 695-0168.



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301
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DoD AND GEORGIAN MCD SIGN JOINT STATEMENT

United States Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and Georgian Chairman and Acting Minister of Defense Eduard Shevardnadze met today in the Pentagon to discuss security issues in the Caucasus and the development of strong U.S.-Georgian defense cooperation. Attached is a copy of the Joint Statement on Future U.S.-Georgian Defense and Military Relations that both men signed today. For additional information, contact Major Bob Potter, Directorate of Defense Information, (703) 697-5131.

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JOINT STATEMENT ON FUTURE US-GEORGIAN DEFENSE AND MILITARY RELATIONS

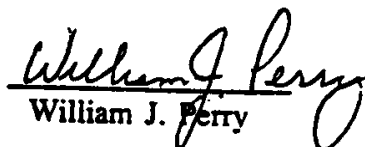
In the discussions held in the Pentagon on March 7, 1994, Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and Georgian Chairman and Acting Minister of Defense Eduard Shevardnadze discussed security issues in the Caucasus and the development of strong US-Georgian defense cooperation.

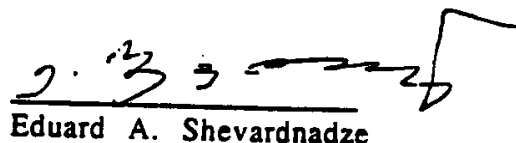
Secretary Perry and Chairman Shevardnadze took note of the steps already taken, such as the posting of the first American military attache to the Republic of Georgia, the establishment of the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program with Georgia, and Georgia's expressed interest in taking part in NATO's Partnership for Peace, as have Ukraine and Russia. The two sides were in accord on additional steps to strengthen US-Georgian defense cooperation:

.. The two sides were in agreement that a Georgian military attache would be posted to Washington.

.. Secretary Perry stated that the US wanted to move forward with a defense cooperation program that would contribute to the rebuilding of the Georgian military under democratic and civilian control. Such a program, similar to those underway with the states of East Central Europe and with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, could include contacts between senior military and defense officials, programs for training and education of officers in the United States and programs of technical assistance in such areas as budgeting, training and civilian oversight.

.. As a first step, Secretary Perry stated his intention to send a senior Defense delegation to Georgia in May to discuss security issues, to make an assessment of Georgian defense reforms and to provide to Secretary Perry recommendations regarding next steps in US-Georgian defense cooperation.


William J. Perry


Eduard A. Shevardnadze